IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

--To achieve the first object stated above, the second ranging method pertaining to the present invention, just as with the above-mentioned ~~seventh~~ first ranging method, is one in which pulsed measurement light is emitted toward an object of measurement, and the distance to the object of measurement is determined on the basis of the elapsed time until the light reflected back from the object of measurement is received; here, the pulsed measurement light is repeatedly emitted toward the object of measurement, a frequency count corresponding to elapsed time is performed when the reflected light for each emission satisfies a specific condition, a frequency distribution table corresponding to elapsed time is produced by adding up the frequencies counted in all of the measurement light emissions carried out a specific number of times, the distance is found from the elapsed time at which the total count in the frequency distribution table exceeds a threshold, and this distance is determined as the distance to the object of measurement and displayed. Again with this method, when a plurality of distances to the object of measurement are determined, a specific distance is selected and displayed from among these distances.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 on page 24 with the following amended paragraph:

--To achieve the third object stated above, the fifth ranging apparatus pertaining to the present invention comprises a measurement light emitter for emitting pulsed measurement light toward an object of measurement, a reflected light receiver for receiving light reflected back from the object of measurement, and a distance computer for finding the distance to the object of measurement on the basis of the elapsed time from when the measurement light is emitted until the reflected light is received. Furthermore, the distance computer comprises a counter for counting the frequency corresponding to distance when the reflected light satisfies a specific condition, a table production component for producing a frequency distribution table corresponding to distance by adding up the frequencies with respect to the measurement light repeatedly emitted a specific number of times, and performing moving averaging in which the frequency at each distance added up in this manner is replaced with an average ~~distance~~ frequency at a plurality of distances including the distance itself and those before and after that distance, and a distance determiner for determining as the distance to the object of measurement the point when the total count in the frequency distribution table produced by the table production component exceeds a specific threshold.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 39 with the following amended paragraph:

--The laser light A emitted from the ranging apparatus 1 in this manner first hits the window glass WG located nearby, and some of the light is reflected (arrow B2). The rest of the laser light reaches the object of measurement OB. The laser light that reaches the object of measurement OB here is reflected as indicated by arrow B1. Part of the light reflected by the window glass WG (indicated by arrow B2) and the light reflected by the object of measurement OB (indicated by arrow B1) (this part is the light reflected toward the ranging apparatus 1) is then incident inside the reflected light reception window 4a (see arrow B in Fig. 2), where it is focused by the focusing lens 43 before reaching the light receiving element 42. When the light receiving element 42 is thus irradiated with the reflected light, a signal corresponding to the intensity of the reflected light is sent to the signal receiving circuit 41, and this signal receiving circuit 41 amplifies or otherwise processes this signal before sending it on to the controller ~~10~~ 7.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 on page 39 with the following amended paragraph:

--Thus, in the controller ~~10~~ 7, a reflected light signal as shown in Fig. 6 (A1) is received (step S14), and the distance to the object of measurement OB is measured from this received signal by the distance computer 10 as follows. In Fig. 6 (A1), the horizontal axis indicates the elapsed time, the origin of which is the point when pulsed laser light is emitted from the laser light emitter 3, and the vertical axis indicates the intensity of the reflected light that is received. Specifically, Fig. 6 (A1) shows the change over time in the intensity of the reflected light received by the reflected light receiver 4 from the time when the pulsed laser light is emitted from the laser light emitter 3 in step S12.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 34 with the following amended paragraph:

--Furthermore, when a plurality of flags have been set up in the above flow, the ~~distance~~ threshold selector 14 is actuated according to operation of the second control button 6, a specific flag is selected from among the plurality of flags, and the distance at the center of gravity position of that flag is displayed by the distance display 8.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 6 on page 47 with the following amended paragraph:

--In situations such as these, in this embodiment, the flow moves to step S40 while flags are still set up in a plurality of distance zones, the center of gravity position for each flag is calculated, and a plurality of distances are determined. Then, a specific distance is selected from among the above-mentioned plurality of distances by the distance selector ~~14~~ 15, and this is displayed by the distance display 8.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 on page 47 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Thus, the selection made by the distance selector ~~14~~ 15 can, for instance, consist of selecting the greatest distance and displaying it on the distance display 8, selecting the least distance and displaying it on the distance display 8, or selecting the n-th greatest distance (where n is a positive integer) and displaying it on the distance display 8. Which of these selection methods is to be employed may be programmed in ahead of time, but the system can also be designed so that the method is selected and set by operating the second control button 6.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 on page 47 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Conceivable conditions for selecting the distance as above include the type of object being ranged, the weather conditions during ranging, and other such usage conditions, and the system can also be designed to allow these to be switched and set by operation of the second control button 6. In this case, the distance selector ~~14~~ 15 selects a specific distance on the basis of the selection conditions set by operation of the second control button 6 by the user, and this distance is displayed on the distance display 8.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 on page 48 with the following amended paragraph:

-- When the distance selector ~~14~~ 15 selects a distance and displays it on the distance display 8 according to a usage condition, etc., this usage condition can be, for example, the focal position (such as the position of the focal ring) of the finder 2a through which the object of measurement is viewed. In this case, the distance selector 15 will select a greater distance when the finder 2a is focused farther away, the distance selector 15 will select a shorter distance when the focus is nearer, and this distance will be displayed on the distance display 8. Furthermore, the weather during ranging can also be used as a usage condition. For example, when the distance to a target is measured in the rain or snow, reflected light from raindrops or snowflakes will be admixed, but since the reflected light from the closer raindrops or snowflakes has a greater effect, the distance selector ~~14~~ 15 selects a greater distance. Moreover, these usage

conditions, etc., can be switched and set as desired by the user by operating the second control button 6.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 on page 48 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The system may also be designed so that when the distance determiner ~~14~~ 13 determines a plurality of distances to an object of measurement, the distance selector ~~14~~ 15 determines that there are a plurality of objects of measurement, and the plurality of distances are displayed on the distance display 8. In this case, all of the plurality of distances may be displayed at once on the distance display 8, or the plurality of distances may be switched in order and displayed one after the other. In this case, the switching of the display mode, and the switching of the plurality of distances in the display in order may be accomplished by operating the second control button 6.--